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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/737,841	12/14/2000	Donald F. Gordon	19880003900	9495
7590	04/21/2005		EXAMINER	
THOMASON, MOSER & PATTERSON, LLP 595 Shrewsbury Avenue Suite 100 Shrewsbury, NJ 07702			JEANTY, ROMAIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/737,841	GORDON ET AL.	
	Examiner Romain Jeanty	Art Unit 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13,16,18,21-24 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-13,16,18,21-24 and 29 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Final Office action is in response to the amendment filed February 1, 2005. In the amendment, no claims have been amended, canceled or deleted. Claims 1-13, 16, 18, 21-24 and 29 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-13, 16, 18, 21-24, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over of Hendricks et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,548) in view of Alonso et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,878) and further in view of Eyer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,545).

As per claims 1, 6, 7, 8-9, and 29, Hendricks et al discloses an operations center for a television program packaging and delivery system comprising:
receiving via a back channel, subscriber selections associated with at least one IPG page (col. 6, lines 36-45; col. 9, lines 55-59);

determining, at said service provider equipment, trend data “demographic information” associated with at least one subscriber, said trend data representative repeated subscriber

selections occurring at said subscriber equipment (a database for collecting demographic information about the subscriber) (col. 14, lines 34-38).

Providing programming to the subscriber based on the trend data “demographic data” to said at least one subscriber (i.e. deliver the program to the subscriber’s set-top-terminal) (col.18, lines 37-50).

Hendricks et al does not disclose a back channel and a forward distribution channel, and the providing video-on-demand (VOD) to subscribers. Alonso et al in the same field of endeavor, disclose an interactive information distribution system comprising a back channel, forward distribution channel and the provision of video-on-demand (VOD) to subscribers (col. 4, lines 8-67). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Hendricks et al to include the back channel and provision of video-on-demand to subscribers as evidenced by Alonso et al. In so doing, would allow that a subscriber to receive requested programming information and also transmits subscriber’s requested information.

Furthermore, the combination of Hendricks et al and Alonso et al fails to explicitly disclose adapting at least one page in response to said determined trend data. Eyer et al in the same field of endeavor, discloses the concept of deleting IPG data (col. 10, lines 52-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant’s invention to have modified the disclosures of Hendricks et al and Alonso et al to incorporate the teachings of Eyer et al with the motivation to remove irrelevant data, thereby minimizing decoding cost.

As per claim 2, Hendricks et al further disclose stamping each event with a time of occurrence for the event (col. 29 lines 53 through col. 30 line 10).

As per claim 3, the combination of Hendricks et al, Alonso et al and Eyer et al discloses the limitations of claim 3 in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Hendricks et al discloses associating each event with a source where the event occurred (col. 24, lines 11-23).

As per claim 4, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein the collected trend data is reported periodically (i.e. sending demographics of viewers during certain time period) (col. 23, lines 12-21).

As per claim 5, Hendricks et al further disclose the trend data/demographics is reported upon receiving a request for the trend data) (i.e. the communication server sending requested viewer's data) (col. 27, lines 52-57).

As per claim 11, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein the user inputs include a selection for a particular program provided to the terminal (col. 7, lines 38-60).

As per claim 12, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein the user inputs include a request for a particular program to be provided to the terminal (the subscriber utilizing an iconic button to make a program selection) (col. 7, lines 43-55).

As per claim 13, Hendricks et al further disclose the user navigation through a user interface (col. 6, lines 32-35) (the subscriber can navigate through a series of informative program selection menus) (col. 12, lines 62-65).

As per claim 16, Hendricks et al further disclose determining statistical information for the received trend data (i.e. accumulating trend data from the set-top-terminal for statistical purposes) (col. 11, lines 3-7).

As per claim 17, Hendricks et al further disclose polling the plurality of terminals for the trend data, wherein the terminals are randomly selected for polling (col. 10, lines 33-40).

As per claim 21, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein each received user input corresponds to an event at the terminal, and wherein the trend data includes a plurality of events collected at the plurality of terminals (col. 29 line 53 through col. 30 line 26).

As per claim 22, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein the analyzing includes categorizing the events into time of day at which the events occurred (col. 29 line 53 through col. 30 line 26).

As per claim 23, Hendricks et al further disclose wherein the analyzing includes categorizing the events into day of week in which the events occurred (col. 29 line 53 through col. 30 line 26).

As per claim 24, Hendricks et al further disclose geographical region of the subscriber's set-top-terminal. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include categorizing a plurality of events in the geographical regions of Hendricks. In so doing, a viewer purchasing trends, and regional interests can be tracked. Note col. 17, lines 8-11; col. 21, lines 40-46 of Hendricks et al.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed February 1, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Remarks

9. Applicants asserted that Hendricks does not teach the claimed invention. Applicants further supported their assertion by arguing that nowhere in Hendricks is there any teaching or suggestion of the applicants' invention, which discloses "adapting at least one IPG page in

response to said determined trend data. In addition, Applicants her argued that the Alonzo and Eyer references alone or in combination fail to bridge the substantial gap between the Hendricks reference and applicants' claimed invention because Alonzo fails to teach the suggestion of "adapting at least one IPG page in response to the determined trend data. Furthermore, applicants argued that nowhere in the Eyer reference of any teaching of adapting at least one page in response to said determined trend data. In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees with applicants' arguments because the combined references of Hendricks, Alonzo and Eyer, teach the applicants' claimed invention. For example, Hendricks teaches the concept of determining the trend data for a user (tracking and maintaining viewing information about the user), and Ayer teaches the concept of adapting an IPG page. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Hendricks to include the adapting at least one IPG page as evidenced by Ayer. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use this modification in order to determine a user's preference, thereby to efficiently deliver multimedia information or advertising to the user.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Ludvig et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,437) disclose an IPG graphic that changes from 510.sub.1 to 510.sub.2. Ludvig further discloses a process of transitioning from one IPG page to another can be accomplished by incrementing or decrementing through the IPG pages.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3623

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RJ

Romain Jeanty
ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3623
4/18/2005